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January 20, 2023

VIA ECF

The Honorable Denise Cote  
United States District Judge  
United States District Court, Southern District of New York  
500 Pearl Street, Room 1910  
New York, NY 10007

*Grant Red-  
denise Cote  
1/20/23*

***Re: Iraq Telecom Limited v. IBL Bank, S.A.L., No. 1:21-cv-10940-DLC***

Dear Judge Cote:

On behalf of Respondent IBL Bank S.A.L. ("IBL") and pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2 and Rule 8.B of Your Honor's Individual Rules of Practice, IBL respectfully submits this letter-motion requesting an order to file under seal the Sixth Declaration of Karim Habib and the exhibit attached thereto (collectively, the "Sixth Habib Declaration"), which IBL is filing in accordance with the Court's direction at the January 4, 2023 conference. The Court granted similar sealing requests upon the filing of IBL's Opening Post-Remand Memorandum of Law Concerning the Attachment Amount, IBL's Response to Iraq Telecom's Opening Post-Remand Memorandum Concerning the Attachment Amount, and IBL's Surreply to Iraq Telecom's Reply Post-Remand Memorandum Concerning the Attachment Amount. *See* ECF Nos. 151, 169, 180. Because the Sixth Habib Declaration contains the same, or the same type of, confidential and sensitive financial information that the Court has previously permitted IBL to file under seal, the Court should grant this motion and maintain the confidentiality of that information. Subsequent to filing this letter-motion, IBL will publicly file redacted versions of this document, omitting confidential information, including sensitive financial information.

Pursuant to Rule 5.2, the Court may, "[f]or good cause," order redaction of a filed document or limit a nonparty's access to a document filed with the court. Fed. R. Civ. P. 5.2. A district court "enjoys considerable discretion in determining whether good cause exists to overcome the presumption of open access to documents filed in" court. *Geller v. Branich Int'l Realty Corp.*, 212 F.3d 734, 738 (2d Cir. 2000). The Second Circuit has designated three factors to guide this discretion: first, the court must determine whether the document to be filed constitutes a "judicial document"; second, the court must determine the weight of the presumption of public

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access for the document; and third, the court must weigh competing interests against the presumption of public access. *Lugosch v. Pyramid Co.*, 435 F.3d 110, 120 (2d Cir. 2006).

It is unclear that the Sixth Habib Declaration even qualifies as a “judicial document[],” but even if so, the weight of the presumption of public access is low, given the narrow request here, seeking a redaction of only confidential financial information. *See United States v. Amodeo*, 71 F.3d 1044, 1050 (2d Cir. 1995) (“Where . . . documents play only a negligible role in the performance of Article III duties, the weight of the presumption is low and amounts to little more than a prediction of public access absent a countervailing reason.”). And where, as here, the information sought to be protected is confidential business information, those privacy interests generally outweigh the presumption of public access. *See, e.g., Apple Inc. v. Samsung Elecs. Co.*, 727 F.3d 1214, 1226 (Fed. Cir. 2013) (“Considering the parties’ strong interest in keeping their detailed financial information sealed and the public’s relatively minimal interest in this particular information, we conclude that the district court abused its discretion in ordering the information unsealed.”); *SEC v. Telegram Grp., Inc.*, No. 19-cv-9439 (PKC), 2020 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 106592, at \*19 (S.D.N.Y. June 17, 2020) (“[T]he confidentiality of proprietary business information and banking records are legitimate countervailing factors to the public’s presumptive right of access.”); *Kewazinga Corp. v. Microsoft Corp.*, No. 1:18-cv-4500-GHW, 2021 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 62974, at \*9 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 31, 2021) (“Courts commonly find that documents that contain trade secrets, confidential research and development information, marketing plans, revenue information, pricing information, and the like satisfy the sealing standard.” (citation omitted)).

Accordingly, an order allowing IBL to file an unredacted version of the Sixth Habib Declaration under seal will protect IBL’s significant interest in keeping certain information—including its global liquidity amounts, compliance efforts with Banque du Liban Circulars, and other proprietary information—confidential, without unduly restricting the right of public access.

For the foregoing reasons, IBL respectfully requests that the Court grant IBL’s motion to seal the above materials, or, in the alternative, allow IBL to file a full memorandum of law to address the sealing of these materials.

Very truly yours,

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